

THE LEON VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders: Gerald Clanton
Mike Gentry

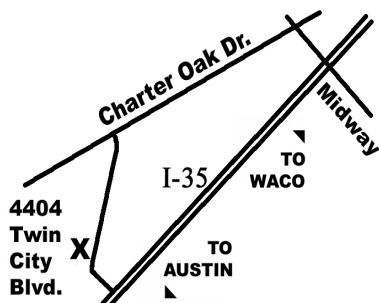
Deacons: Craig Clanton
David Foster
V.O. Speights

Preachers: Drew Nelson and Warren King

WHEN WE MEET

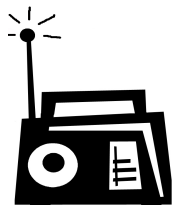
| | | |
|------|----------|------------|
| Sun: | Classes | 9:30 A.M. |
| | Assembly | 10:30 A.M. |
| | Assembly | 6:00 P.M. |
| Wed: | Classes | 7:30 P.M. |

WHERE WE MEET



From I-35, take the Midway exit (# 297). Go south (toward Austin) on the feeder road for almost one mile. Turn right at the DPS Drivers License office. We are on the left.

All articles in Simple Truth are written by Warren King unless otherwise stated.
Contact the Leon Valley congregation at (254) 939-0682 (leave a message).



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SIMPLE TRUTH

A PUBLICATION OF THE
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4404 Twin City Blvd. Temple TX 76502

Volume 4

Number 44

A Modern~Day Phylactery

“You shall therefore impress these words of mine on your heart and on your soul; and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontals on your forehead” - De 11:18

Under the old covenant, male Jews were expected to wear two phylacteries, one on the forehead called a “frontlet” and one on the left arm. A phylactery consisted of a small leather case containing four passages of scripture from the Old Testament with strips of leather to bind to the head or arm. These were to be worn by every adult Jewish male at the time of morning prayer. The phylactery served as a reminder of the Law.

This seems like an odd custom to us today, and of course we are not obligated to keep any such custom under the new covenant. During the time of Jesus, the Phylactery was being used as a way to ‘show off’ one’s piety, and Jesus rebuked this practice (Mt 23:5). But the original reason for the phylactery is something we can learn from.

The Phylactery was symbolic of the Word of God being impressed upon the mind, heart, and soul. The fact that the Word should always be at the forefront of our minds is evident in the NT as well. *“Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you”* (Col 3:16). -Drew Nelson

Battle Plans

We are at war. I'm not talking about our battle against terrorism. I mean a different kind of war – one where the stakes are much higher. This war involves the most dreadful of human casualties, lost souls (Ep 6:10-12). What can prepare us to war the good warfare?

Rely on the right ally. Be strong *“in the Lord”* and in the strength of *“His”* might. To put your strength in anyone else is to be weak.

Get fit for the fight. *“Put on”* the full armor of God. He has provided the equipment, but you still have to put it on. You can march into battle, strong in the strength that God supplies: truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, faith, salvation, and the word of God.

Give some attention to your weaknesses, not just your strengths. We like to talk about what we can do well, where we're strong. But Satan doesn't attack you on your strong side. He goes for the weak spot. That is why Paul said to put on the *“full”* armor of God. The whole armor will cover up the holes.

Know your enemy. *“...you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.”* The devil has many strategies to deceive us; but, we are *“not ignorant of his devices”* (2 Co 2:11) – unless we make no effort to combat them.

The war is waging. Who is on the Lord's side? Without Him, you cannot succeed. With Him, you cannot fail.

– *Bubba Garner (edited for space)*

Just Thinkin'

What social commentators call 'political correctness' the Bible calls 'cowardice' (Re 21:8). **One who fails to acknowledge truth, even when the evidence is overwhelming, is a coward – and will pay an eternal consequence.**

In the first century, that cowardice was seen in Jewish rulers who fully understood who Jesus was, yet refused to publicly acknowledge it. They were much more concerned for their position and rank than for the truth (Jn 12:42-43).

Today, that cowardice is seen in political leaders who would rather protect their position than to take an unpopular stand for what is right. It is seen in corporate America and even in the military, where those in positions of power are sometimes willing to throw truth and right under the bus rather than to make an unpopular decision and risk losing their position.

Courage is more than a willingness to face bullets. It is a willingness to stare political correctness in the face and make the right decision anyway. Think about it.